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her ambassador from Berlin and send 80,000 Russians into Prussia! On March 26, "with tears in his eyes", Frederick William complied. This action opened him to the charge of breaking his promises, of pursuing a greedy policy of territorial aggrandizement at the expense of his neighbors, and of weakly knuckling to the demands of Napoleon and Paul. It was humiliating, but it was not the worst. After a few weeks Paul died. Alexander reversed his policy, made peace with England, and expressed his wish that Hanover be restored to George III. A second time Prussia did Russia's bidding. To the diplomats of the time this was an open confession of weakness. After 1801 no one need be surprised at 1806.

Dr. Ford's study is based on a careful examination of the archives of Hanover, Dresden, and London and of the printed sources, and is of much value and interest to the student of this period.

SIDNEY B. FAY.

Catalogue of Parliamentary Papers, 1801-1900, with a few of Earlier Date. Compiled by HILDA VERNON JONES. (London: P. S. King and Son. 1904. Pp. viii, 317.)

THE great and constantly increasing mass of literature published for the British government and long generally known as blue books had its beginnings in the present form as comparatively recently as 1837. Reports from state departments were submitted to Parliament from about the time of the Revolution; but until 1801 few of them were officially printed in separate form. They were usually spread in full on the journals, as were also the reports of Parliamentary committees; and when the *Journals* were printed these reports for the first time became generally accessible. There has never been a government printing bureau in England. Government printing was first done by the holders of patents from the crown, and later on by contractors; and at no time have the reports of Parliamentary committees and royal commissions been gratuitously distributed. They have been, as they are to-day, sold at cost through the authorized government publishers, a method of issue dating from 1837.

Since 1801 it has been customary to print in blue-book form reports which previous to that time were inserted in the journals; but for many years after this plan was adopted public documents as a general rule were obtainable at the time of issue, only through members of Parliament. There must always have been some demand for Parliamentary papers; for in several of the eighteenth-century post-office statutes there were clauses providing that they should be carried postage free. Members of both Houses of Parliament at this time enjoyed the now-long-abolished privilege of franking; but in the latter part of this period the number of letters a member of Parliament might receive or send without payment of postage was rigidly limited. Hence the necessity for special provision in the post-office acts for Parliamentary papers. This public interest in Parliamentary documents is also further borne out by the fact that as early as 1773 a selec-

tion of reports from committees was published in four large volumes. These were followed in 1803 by eleven more volumes, whose contents were selected by a Parliamentary committee, which at the same time drew attention to the necessity of an index to the fifteen volumes. Luke Hansard, who was the printer of the *Journals* from 1774, and whose son, T. C. Hansard, originated the *Parliamentary Debates* in 1803, undertook to make the index; and to it he added a list of reports inserted in the journals of the Commons from 1696 to 1800, but not included in the fifteen volumes which his index covered.

These fifteen volumes, which included only the *Reports of Committees*, served until 1825, when on the recommendation of a committee another series was published, in which were included reports of commissions and other Parliamentary papers of permanent value. For this third series it was claimed that "there is scarcely a subject connected with the Laws, Institutions, Commerce, and Morals of the Country, but what will be found treated on:—Administration of Justice, Privileges of Parliament, the National Church, Education, Arts and Manufactures, Agriculture, Trade, Criminal Law, Police, etc.," it was added, "all have their place . . . and the important and useful information they [the volumes] contain justifies the enlargement of the field of selection."

After the issue of the last of these selections from the Parliamentary papers, it became possible to obtain current Parliamentary reports at the Vote Office; but until 1837 they could not be obtained singly, as only complete sets covering a session were sold. Papers so obtained found their way into a few of the more important public libraries; and in 1835 the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge began to include Parliamentary papers in its list. It apparently pushed the sale of reports of more than usual interest, such for instance, as those of the commissioners who investigated the pre-reform condition of the English, Scotch, and Irish municipalities. Brougham and other Whig politicians were zealous supporters of the society; and it was apparently through some such influence as theirs that the society had the privilege of obtaining from the government printers papers of exceptional interest.

In 1834 and 1835 there were committees of the House of Lords and of the House of Commons to devise better methods of circulating public documents; and in 1837 the plan of issuing them at cost through authorized publishers was adopted. When the franking of letters was abolished in 1840, the old privilege of members of Parliament of sending public documents through the post without charge also came to an end; to-day publishers who handle these documents must pay postage on them at the same cheap rate that books of other descriptions are carried through the mails in England.

For several centuries the universities enjoyed the perpetual right to publish the *Statutes at Large*. In the eighteenth century both Cambridge and Oxford ceased to exercise this privilege; and the printing of *Acts of Parliament* then became the right of the king's printer, who enjoyed it by virtue of a royal patent, and who claimed the exclusive

right of printing and selling every act of Parliament in Scotland and Ireland as well as in England. This monopoly greatly increased the price to the public and also to the government. Its disadvantages were reported upon by a Parliamentary committee of 1835, of which Hume, the reformer and economist, was chairman ; but exactly half a century elapsed before this monopoly could be terminated, and the right to print the *Acts of Parliament* was finally transferred to the Stationery Office, which now issues them through its authorized publishers.

Since Parliamentary committees ceased to select reports for publication in book form and to issue them with their sanction, there has been only one long-sustained attempt to popularize blue-book literature. It was made by the late Professor Leone Levi, who in 1856 established a periodical summary of Parliamentary papers. The scheme was a comprehensive one. The summaries were judiciously and carefully made ; and Professor Levi was enabled to continue the work until 1868, by which time he had produced eighteen volumes. After he had abandoned it, Parliamentary papers were left to the newspapers and to the economic reviews, which made a selection of such of their contents as were likely to appeal to their constituencies. To-day, however, all the more important English newspapers issue lists almost daily of the reports and documents received from the government publishers. But this is an innovation dating back only a few years, and until the publication of Miss Jones's compilation, there were available to students no catalogues of the enormous mass of government literature that has accumulated since 1800.

Miss Jones does not claim for her *Catalogue* that it is a complete exhaustive list of all papers ordered to be printed by Parliament. It is claimed, however, that the most important papers, diplomatic and colonial correspondence, and reports of royal commissions and select committees are given. And there is good ground for this claim. There are 8,496 titles in the *Catalogue*, which covers 317 closely printed pages. The plan and the arrangement are excellently conceived and admirably carried out. Where the official title is too scant to explain fully the nature of a report or a document, Miss Jones has added a brief description of the contents. I know of only two libraries in this country where there is anything approaching a complete set of the British Parliamentary papers named in this *Catalogue* — the Library of Congress and the Public Library at Boston. But Miss Jones's list will surely find its way into all reference libraries ; and with it at hand, the resources of the Washington and Boston libraries will become much more available than they have hitherto been to students all over the country. Not the least valuable feature of the *Catalogue*, it may be added, is that it can to a large extent be made to serve as a dictionary of dates for British political thought and movement in the nineteenth century.

EDWARD PORRITT.